

MACAA Detroit 2012 – Session Proposal

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Residual Media, Art and Collaboration

This session considers residual cultural forms and the artistic collaborations that cluster around them. “Residual” here follows Raymond Williams' usage referring to media and artifacts created in the past but still actively clinging to and meaningful in the present. The residual embraces the many ways that contemporary artists are innovatively retrieving and reevaluating discarded artifacts, fashions, and older types of media. The realm of the residual may also relate to landscape reclamation projects that reconnect the public to abandoned sites and reorient the appeal of past ruins for the present and future. Of special interest to the session is the collaborative dimension that current reclamation projects or residual media projects give rise to. In connecting residual media, art and collaboration, the session invites presentation proposals that address such questions as these:

How do new media and old media compare as platforms of collaboration?

How have attitudes toward craft changed (or been restored) with collaborative involvement in residual media?

How do the use of found materials in art motivate collaboration in production as well as in the appreciation of collective memory?

What are the changing attitudes toward obsolescence and ruins, and how are they shifting from isolation and nostalgia to more dynamic, collective associations?

What opportunities are there for landscape architects and artists to rebuild community as they reconstruct residual public spaces and parks?

Whether neglected, abandoned, or trashed, this session invites proposals that explore how artistic collaboration can recycle, reconfigure, and renew a practical sense of community itself.